

FEATURE HIV CONFIDENTIALITY
STILL A DILEMMA **P.2**

MUSIC MEET THE BAND BRINGING
ROCKABILLY TO BEIJING **P.3**

FOOD NEW YEAR'S EATS AND
TEMPLE FAIR TREATS **P.8**

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MOODY BLUES

WHEN THE FINANCIAL CRISIS HOBBOLED CHINA'S ART
MARKET, ZHANG XING LEARNED THE REAL VALUE OF
HER WORK WAS IN HER OWN HAPPINESS. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Beijing Youth Daily Group President: Zhang Yanping
Editor-in-Chief: Yu Haibo ■ Director: Li Xiaobing
Address: Building A, 23 Baijiazhuang Dong Li,
Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100026



Editor-in-Chief: Jack Wang ■ Content Director: Su Derui ■ Designer: Zhao Yan ■ Phone: (010) 6590 2515 ■ FAX: (010) 6590 2525
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FEATURE



BY WANG YAN

Wang Xin (pseudonym), a young man in Henan Province, recently made headlines when he sued a local hospital for failing to inform him that his wife was infected with HIV during their premarital health check.

Wang and his wife Ye Qing (pseudonym) married last March. Prior to their marriage, the couple conducted a premarital health check at a Yongcheng Women's and Children's Hospital.

"My check went smoothly, but doctors asked my wife to take three more blood tests. I had my concerns, but doctors said there was nothing to worry about," Wang told Xinhua.

The hospital said they told Ye that she was infected with HIV, but kept that information from Wang.

Months after their marriage, Wang also contracted HIV. He insisted that his wife was not properly informed of the risks of the virus. Wang told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the hospital only told his wife that she was infected with the virus. Both were from the countryside and were not well educated about HIV and its transmission. Wang said he could understand why his wife didn't tell him about her illness, but he believed the hospital should have informed him.

Last July, Wang filed a lawsuit against the hospital seeking 1.2 million yuan in

damages. The local court has not accepted the case, citing a backlog in cases as reason, *Shanghai Daily* reported.

Contradictory Regulations

The story stirred a national debate on the conflicting obligations to protect HIV carriers' privacy and to prevent their partners from infection.

A spokesperson for the hospital told *Beijing Youth Daily* that "the hospital follows strictly China's AIDS Prevention and Treatment Regulation. And the regulation requires medical staff to protect patients' privacy. It prohibits disclosing their HIV status without consent."

Liu Wei, a lawyer with Beijing Chen-zhihua Law Firm, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that doctors were indeed following the regulation.

"The regulation stipulates that without the consent of the patient or his or her guardian, no organization nor individual may disclose a patient's illness to others," Liu said.

"This is to protect the patient's privacy," Liu said. But Liu said Ye had the responsibility to tell Wang about her condition.

"According to the regulation, HIV carriers have the responsibility to inform their partners. If they fail to do so and their partners are infected, HIV carriers can face civil liabilities, and in some cases

Yunnan

In Yunnan province, which has been struggling with HIV for many years, informing people about their partners' HIV status is required. In 2005, the Yunnan government announced that if an HIV carrier fails to inform his or her partner, medical practitioners retain the right to inform the partner.

"When we first started the policy, we were concerned that it might cause more trouble for HIV infected families. But five years went by and the result was good," Lu told Xinhua.

Global Problem

The dilemma created by the case is not just China's problem. Medical staff in many countries struggle between ethical standards and society's moral expectations.

In the US, both federal and state laws require that a person's HIV status be kept confidential. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of a person's health information.

But in terms of protecting the partner's life, different US states have different requirements. Many states and some cities have partner-notification laws which legally require HIV carriers to inform their sex or needle-sharing partners. In some states, HIV carriers who fail to inform their partners can be charged with a crime. Some states also require clinics to notify a "third party" if they know that the person has a significant risk for HIV infection from a carrier.

In the UK, all healthcare professionals are obliged by law – and by professional regulatory standards – to ensure HIV carriers' medical information remains confidential. If professionals fail to obey these standards, they risk being banned from working in the industry.

But even in the UK, medical staff may under some circumstances be obliged to disclose a person's HIV status. However, it is very rare that the disclosure occurs without notifying the HIV carrier.

Although most countries have laws or regulations protecting partners involved with a HIV carrier, the sensitivity and complexity of the problem makes it difficult to have clear-cut regulations or standards. Solely relying on regulations and laws to solve the problem may not be enough.

Lisa Fitzpatrick, an epidemiologist and physician specializing in infectious diseases in Washington, suggested that to a large degree the dilemma is caused by long-established negative perceptions associated with the HIV virus and insufficient knowledge about AIDS. She said changing the perception of the HIV virus will eventually facilitate disclosure.

Fitzpatrick wrote in *Washington Post*, "If the stigma associated with HIV testing and being HIV-positive is removed from the mainstream culture and if the health-care providers and patients or general public look at AIDS as a manageable disease like cancer, that will grant patients more space and willingness to open up to their spouse." ■



criminal charges," Liu said.

But some lawyers believe the hospital does have a responsibility.

"The regulation on premarital health check requires doctors to inform both partners about their health status," Han Xiao, a lawyer with Beijing Jingru Law Firm told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

According to the regulation, in couples where one member is infected with HIV, medical staff should explain the risks and offer health advice if they intend to pursue a marriage.

"Although there is this regulation, many doctors don't want to violate the patient's privacy. Usually, doctors will choose not to tell the partner," Han said. "It is ultimately a conflict between right to privacy and right to life."

MUSIC



Icy Whiskey Brings Rockabilly to China's Indie Scene

BY DIAO DIAO



Photos by Icy Whiskey

The local indie scene tends to be 20- to 30-year-old men who grew up listening to Western rock and managed to absorb a few chords from grunge or Britpop.

And then you have Icy Whiskey, what might be the Chinese capital's only rockabilly band.

It's an odd genre to find in China, to be sure, given its deep influences from American country music and early rhythm and blues.

Early rockabilly bands were limited to guitar and bass. Performers would use a percussive "slap-back" technique where performers make up for the missing drums by tapping out their own rhythms on the guitar body.

Icy Whiskey features a more modern three-member lineup, which begins with Wen Dawei, the founder, singer and double bass player.

"A lot of people confuse the double bass with the cello.

Double bass differs in size and the way it's played," Wen said. People stand to play double bass but sit to play cello, and a double bass is about 170 to 180 cm long: twice the size of a cello. It also requires different finger work, he said.

Chen Yu, Icy Whiskey's guitar player, is a jazz student at Beijing Contemporary Music Academy. He started to play guitar in high school and joined the band last year after failing in his bicycle repair business in Shaanxi province.

Zhao Xiong, the drummer, is from Guangdong province and studies percussion with Gu Hequan, one of the most famous drum teachers in China. He is also a student at Beijing Contemporary Music Academy.

Wen said the idea to form the band in 2013 was born out of his love for vintage rock – especially the 1950s and 1960s hits of Elvis Presley and Little Richard.

Today, the band plays neo rockabilly, which brings a few modern elements into the nostalgic framework. It's a challenge for Wen, given his limited background in composing.

"Music needs people to dig into it. I don't believe most musicians are just talented or gifted. Talent only exists in masters who spent their lives studying how to make great music. For most of us, we can only listen more and practice more," Wen said.

Before committing to his current band, Wen hoped to enter Communication University of China and become a recording engineer. Poor scores on the National College Entrance Exam quashed those dreams.

Today, in addition to serving as the core of Icy Whiskey, Wen also founded Xinshenglang, a pop music label that has organized more than 70 concerts since March 2015.

Chen Yu and Zhao Xiong had the same experience with poor scores, so both decided to enter a music academy.

The three members said their poor academic scores don't necessarily predict their success or failure in music. All benefit from supportive families who have refrained from pressuring them to follow China's established career track.

The band has only four original songs, but they have performed more than 20 concerts. Although Beijing may be the heart of the Chinese indie scene, it's not an easy place to survive when the entire Chinese music scene is on its way down, Wen said.

Icy Whiskey is working on expanding its song catalog in preparation for its first national tour. ■

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Su Zixu @ 69 Cafe

Su Zixu and his band The Parametria are celebrating Valentine's Day. Su is known for his performance on *Sing My Song*, CCTV's singing competition. His magnetic voice won him many fans with his performances of soft love songs.

9-11 pm, February 14

109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

51 yuan (pre sale), 69 yuan (at door)

Romance Concert @ DDC Club

DDC Club is celebrating its first post-Spring Festival opening and Valentine's Day with performances by Dan Taylor from Britain, Black-T, Wang Juan and Band, and Girl Kill Girl.

8-11:30 pm, February 14

14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng

49 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

Don't Abuse @ MAO Live

Everyone is throwing parties for lovers and couples on the Valentine's Day, and MAO Live is no exception. The premiere livehouse is offering a sexy party for boys and girls to express themselves through music. Mr. Honey from Beijing, Brothers, Ideal Garden Larry's Pizza and a secret guest will be at the party.

8-11:30 pm, February 14

111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

80 yuan (pre sale),
150 yuan (pre sale for two persons)



Pan Gaofeng @ Jianghu Bar

Pan Gaofeng is a singer-songwriter who participated in the first episode of *Sing My Song*, CCTV's popular singing competition. Pan has an excellent voice and is the singer in G-Eleven. He and his band are performing for the festival on February 12.

9-11:30 pm, February 12

7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng

80 yuan (pre sale), 100 yuan (at door)



ARTISTS



Guess How Much I Love You



So You Are Here



In or Out

Photos by Zhang Xing

Blue Heart Behind Zhang's Moody Creations

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Dance With You



Lean On

The Artist
Zhang Xing

Flew Away



Virtual World, Beautiful Life

Blue has an implied meaning of melancholy and quiet. It's perfectly suited to be the dominant hue in artist Zhang Xing's paintings.

Zhang describes herself as a romanticist, but most of her work utilizes lonesome tones and sad symbols to cast a bleak reflection of the real world.

While her early work is cast in grays and reflects the stories and feelings of her adolescence, Zhang's recent creations have been more colorful and imaginative.

Don't Go might best exemplify the shift in her attitude. The painting was created soon after Zhang's grandmother died, and in it the woman is transformed into a dove that is embraced by two girls who are unwilling to release it.

It can be hard to distinguish whether the characters in Zhang's creations are happy, angry or sad. Most share the same blank face – a reflection of the artist's own mental state.

A *Secret on the Tree* explores Zhang's thoughts on death. In this painting, a blue fox has died, and a girl is holding it with sad expression. The other foxes look on, worried and scared.

"It is inevitable that everyone must experience death one day. Before that day arrives, how should we regard the matter of death? I think it's an interesting question," Zhang said.

Another painting *Flew Away* has the same theme: death. It was created for Zhang's college classmate, who died around that time.

No Place to Live focuses on the challenge of environmental protection. "With the rise in global temperatures, Arctic ice is melting, and polar bears may have no place to survive in the future," Zhang said.

Zhang spent her childhood in a small village in Guangdong province. At the age of six, she enrolled in the local elementary school where she met Mr. Lin, her first art teacher.

"He taught us to paint apple trees as the first lesson. I just painted based on imagination. I was so afraid he would be upset with my painting," Zhang said. But her teacher immediately recognized her potential and gave her a road to follow in her life.

Zhang enrolled in the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2003. Her parents hoped she would become a college teacher, but she elected to pursue a career as an independent artist when she graduated in 2007.

Being a freelance artist is hard and unstable work, and Zhang experienced the greatest crisis of her career in 2010.

When the 2008 financial crisis depressed the domestic art market, Zhang was among the many artists no longer able to find a market for their work. The sudden loss of interest in her work left her feeling very confused about why she was creating. By 2010, she was severely depressed and returned to her parents' home to find a new direction.

"For most people, the most painful thing is to not know what they really want to do," Zhang said.

Taking a break from painting did little to lift her spirits. In 2012, Zhang left home to find work in Guangzhou, the heart of the Guangdong province artist community.

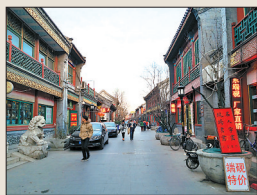
"I finally learned that painting is the source of my happiness and the pillar of my spirit. It has nothing to do with money," Zhang said. ■

Web: artand.cn/zhangxing

A TRAVEL

Liulichang, Qianmen Stand in for Long-Gone Old Beijing Streets

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



In the 2015 documentary *The Chinese Mayor*, the mayor of Datong, Shanxi province, has a wild dream. He wants to rebuild the ancient city to attract tourists and boost the local economy. But in order to do that, he needs to relocate half a million people, bulldoze their houses and build the fake ancient city almost from scratch.

He proceeds to do it and spends billions of yuan until, years into his half-finished project, he is moved to administrate a different city.

The documentary is a rare insight into the cultural revitalization that has taken place across China in recent years. For foreigners, it can be hard to understand why city administrators would raze old neighborhoods to build new old-looking buildings.

Beijing's Liulichang, Dashilan and Qianmen streets illustrate that philosophy in varying degrees. The streets, located in central Beijing, used to be cultural and commercial hubs hundreds of years ago. Liulichang was a gathering place for politicians, scholars and painters in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). Dashilan and Qianmen were famous commercial arteries as far back as the Ming dynasty (1368-1644).

They have all been renovated over the past few years, especially ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Some of the buildings are authentic, but more are new, ancient-looking constructions that line modern pedestrian streets in a mix that reflects the oddity of the times.

Liulichang

Liulichang Street was part of a small village during the Liao Period (907-1125). In the Yuan dynasty (1206-1368) the community ran a kiln for glazed tiles that gave the street its name.

During the Qing dynasty, Han officials, who lived separately from the ruling Manchus, started moving into the area. Candidates for the final imperial exam also stayed there when they came to Beijing. Their presence attracted bookstores and stationary shops, and later on scores of scholars, painters and calligraphers. By the 18th century, Liulichang had the largest book fair in Beijing. The area continued to develop as a cultural center, but was crushed during the Cultural Revolution.

The street reopened to the public in



the mid-1980s, and large-scale renovations took place more recently.

Today, Liulichang is an often quiet street, lined with stores that sell traditional Chinese handicrafts and stationery including paintings, sculptures, tea kettles, brushes, scrolls, as well as books and antiques.



Each store has a story that is related to the artist or the family who owns the shop. Shopkeepers are talkative and unhurried, so it's a good place to hear stories and practice your Mandarin. Some stores are quite large and offer a great variety of whatever they're selling, be it paintings or sculptures. Antique prices vary from a few hundred yuan for small objects to several thousand yuan for



Qing dynasty paintings. The shopkeepers say the most expensive objects come with government-issued certificates of authenticity.

Toward the eastern end of the street, you can find Sibao Tang, a store selling sculptures made of jade and other semi-precious stones. The shop could easily be a museum, with some pieces standing 1 meter tall, with intricate designs and price tags of hundreds of thousands yuan.

Dashilan

Dashilan Street, located just a few streets east of Liulichang Street, is an ancient commercial lane. The street was built in the Ming dynasty and expanded to include more prominent businesses during the Qing dynasty.

Versions of the old stores are open today, interspersed with modern restaurants and shops. Visitors can shop for shoes, clothes, hats, Old Beijing snacks and art. The buildings' architectural style resembles that of the



Qing dynasty.

One of the most advertised shops is Majuyuan, which more than a century ago used to make hats for government officials. Similarly, Neiliansheng made shoes for members of the imperial court. Other time-honored stores are

Ruifuxiang, which sells silk, and Luibiju, which sells pickles.

On a street that blends old and new influences, the old-style stores that sell food win in authenticity over those that sell clothes.

Qianmen

The street that underwent the most changes is Qianmen Street. Known as Zhengyangmen Street during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the commercial street was basically rebuilt ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Today, it is lined with Western brand stores such as Zara, New Balance, H&M and KFC, which are interspersed with Chinese clothing and art stores and restaurants. Most of the buildings have Qing-era designs.

The wide pedestrian street could easily be mistaken with shopping alleys in major European cities if it weren't for the buildings' Chinese architecture and the massive Zhengyangmen gate at its north end. There are even bronze-colored statues by the street lamps, similar to those on European streets – but Qianmen's depict ancient Chinese characters. The fourth Madame Tussauds Museum in the world, located on Qianmen Street, adds to the street's European feel.

China is famously a place of



CFP Photos

contrasts and sometimes conflicting influences. Being able to illustrate some of those divergences is enough reason to pay Beijing's old commercial streets a visit. ■



Photos by Simina Mistreanu



ENTERTAINMENT



Photos by douban.com

Stephen Chow's New Comedy Film for Chinese New Year

BY DIAO DIAO

Stephen Chow, the famous Hong Kong director and actor best known for his work in *Shaolin Soccer* and *Kung Fu Hustle*, is bringing his latest comedy, *The Mermaid*, to the big screen on February 8.

The 54-year-old Chow started his film career in 1988 as an actor in TVB made series and short films. He quickly

built a reputation for humor with his starring roles in Hong Kong films such as *All for the Winner*, *Fight Back to School* and *Justice, My Foot*.

Chow transitioned into directing on *From China with Love* and *The God of Cookery*, and found worldwide success in the early 2000s. His *Kung Fu Hustle* won

more than 10 awards in Asia and set box records in 10 countries.

It was a decade before Chow attempted another film. In 2013, he directed *Journey to the West: Conquering the Demons*. The comedy followed his style but failed to resonate with viewers.

Audiences were complaining again almost as soon as his trailer for *The Mermaid* debuted.

The Mermaid tells about a love story between human and mermaid. Xuan is a real estate developer out to create and sell artificial land in the ocean. Shan is a girl mermaid from a family with a big secret. When she confronts Xuan, the two fall in love, and he finally stops filling up the sea. However, Shan disappears due to an accident.

The trailer highlighted the involvement of Deng Chao, an actor who has built his reputation as a joker on

social media. But Deng's comedy *Devil and Angel* was universally panned by viewers for its boring story and stilted acting when it hit theaters last September.

And based on the trailer, those failures carry over into the new film.

As for the lead actress, Chow held a public audition to seek a new face before settling on Lin Yun, a girl born in 1996 in Zhejiang province.

The short trailer hasn't revealed much about the film, but there are already thousands of comments on Chow's new work. Most just repeat one of the actor's lines from *From China with Love*. "Long ago, there was a sincere and precious love that I didn't cherish. I regretted when I lost it. I suffered a lot. If god gives me the opportunity, I will say three words to that girl: I love you!"

Viewers still earnestly wish Chow was the same naughty monkey who said those words in one of his early films as opposed to a mainstream director who is completely compromised by the Chinese film industry. ■



App Popular Writer's First Collection

BY DIAO DIAO

In addition to being a doctor of physics, professor, fitness coach and famous travel writer, Lu Ming is also one of China's most popular science writers.

His works have been published on *Shao-nian Wenyi* (Children's Art), *Harvest*, *Applied Physic Letters*, and "One," an app that collects popular works from excellent writers.

Lu's articles have been so popular that they are driving downloads of the One app. In January, Lu published his first book, which collects all his popular works released on the app.

Because of his major, Lu often relies on physics to generate his analogies for exploring life's truths and social phenomena.

If there's an easy way to sum up his style, it's the antithesis of *Chicken Soup*. Lu's short stories are written in very direct and plain language.

In "Running Times," a young man performs on the athletic track to win applause but finally falls in love with a tolerant girl who makes him love running instead of acting to run.

"Goddess" tells a story of a group of

women who live at the edge of society under big pressure. Their special occupation brings them unfair treatment from the public. Will they be treated equally according to their personality and morality?

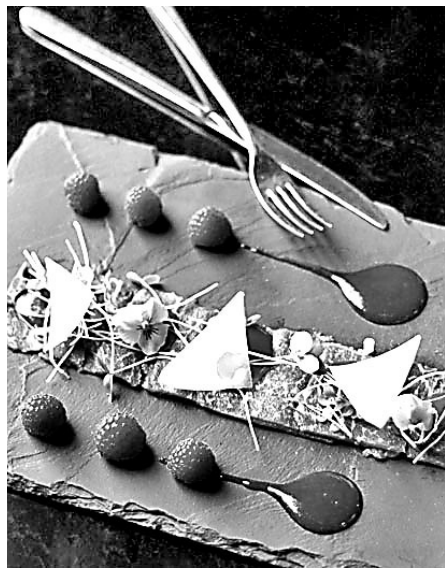
"Fireworks in the City" is about an Old Shanghai alley and the arrival of modern Shanghai.

The book also includes different life themes that are familiar to most readers, such as youth, homesickness and separation. His simple sentences are always so sharp and direct that readers shed tears. ■



Q CLASSIFIEDS

DINNER



R Flavor: Sicilian Taste on Valentine's Day

Spending a Valentine's Day in the realm of romance and fine dining need no longer remain a fantasy! On February 14, Fratelli Fresh is offering an unforgettable night of romance with a Sicilian-style set dinner for two. Enjoy your moment for only 988 yuan per couple together with exquisite Champagne and a surprising take-away!

Chef Stefano of Fratelli Fresh is going to practice his magic to offer the most original and extraordinary Valentine's Day feast in town! With venison carpaccio, creamy lobster soup, Alaska sea scallops and other seasonal collections, you can experience an ultimate Sicilian taste on Valentine's Day!

- Renaissance Beijing Capital Hotel, 61 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang (north of Viva Mall by Fuli City)
- 💎 988 yuan per couple
- 🕒 5:30-10:30 pm, February 14



Valentine's Day Dinner

Celebrate this Valentine's Day with the one you love over a four course set menu at Feast for 521 yuan (plus 15 percent service charge) and two glasses of sparkling wine.

Start with foie gras torchon and gravlax with brioche, red wine jelly and herb salad. Then move onto a second course of mushroom and chestnut cappuccino finished with truffle cream before enjoying a main course of beef and reef: roast beef fillet with crumbed king prawn. Impress your better half with a classic Pavlova right at your table.

- Feast (Food by EAST), 2/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu Chaoyang 521 yuan
- 🕒 5:30-10 pm, February 14
- ✉ feast@east-beijing.com
- ☎ (010) 8414 9820

NIGHTLIFE



Ultra-Luxe Love Package

Make this Valentine's Day one to remember at Rosewood Beijing.

Spend a little extra time with your significant someone with the Ultra-Luxe Love Package – a romantic getaway in the presidential suite priced from 48,888 yuan per night.

Prestigious benefits include a round-trip Jaguar limousine transfer to and from your home; Champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries; a round-the-clock personal butler and Manor Club access; a bottle of Dom Perignon champagne, caviar and oysters on arrival; 100 red roses and Tiffany & Co. designer jewelry gifts for the lady; a 2.5-hour Sense Journey's Rejuvenation couple treatment; evening turn-down with luxurious bath ritual and plush personalized robes; an in-room candlelight five-course Valentine's degustation menu by Chef Jarrod from award-winning Bistrot B including two glasses of Louis Roederer Rose champagne, worth 2,188 yuan per couple; six signature cocktails of your choice at MEI; breakfast in bed for two; a 60-minute instructor-led private yoga session and 45-minute poolside foot massage the next morning; and 2 pm late check-out.

Advance reservations are required. Price is subject to availability and 15 percent service charge.

- Rosewood Beijing, Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang 48,888 yuan
- 🕒 2 pm - midnight, February 14
- ✉ beijing.reservations@rosewoodhotels.com
- ☎ (010) 6597 8888



Beijing Invitational Craft Beer Festival

Great Leap Brewing is holding its second annual Beijing Invitational Craft Beer Festival at TRB Copper. The Invitational is the first and only beer festival in Beijing that highlights international breweries, and this year we will have a number of returning breweries like Baird, Yeastie Boys and Victory plus new brands including Allagash, Mountain Goat and Epic.

The event is broken up into seven two-hour session spread across Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each session will be limited in numbers, which will give guests plenty of time and space to sample beers from a variety of international breweries and get valuable insight into the ales and lagers. Tickets are 250 yuan per person and get you entrance to the event, free drinks, canapes provided by TRB and a limited-edition 2016 BICBF glass.

Tickets are now on sale at the Great Leap #12 Brewpub, located on Xinzhong Jie, and online at 247tickets.cn. Tickets can be purchased online using a credit card, Unionpay, WeChat Wallet, Paypal or bank transfer.

- 💎 250 yuan per person
- 🕒 5-9 pm, multiple dates

COMMUNITY



Chaoyang Board Game Geeks

Do you like "serious" board games that require a decent amount of concentration but that can be played in one sitting. No Scrabble or Apples to Apples – but also no hardcore roleplaying or campaign games that take days to complete.

Chaoyang Board Game Geeks plays serious strategy games that typically take more than an hour to complete. Participants are expected to be reasonably competitive people who enjoy playing board games and giving it their all.

Meetings are a chance to play "offline" and to meet new and different people, chitchat when it's not your turn and make friends. Participants are expected to occasionally show up with some kind of foods or drinks, including imported junk food, that go hand-in-hand with a good board gaming session.

The group meets at restaurants and

cafes, and sometimes in the homes of members who are willing to host on a given night. The current plan is to meet once a month.

Age, gender, profession and language are irrelevant, though most of the games in the group's inventory are English-language editions. The most important thing is an interest in board games.

- 🕒 2 pm - midnight, multiple dates
- ✉ timdorsett@gmail.com

FILM



Free Classic Movie Night @ Pop-Up Beijing

This week, Pop-Up is screening *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, a brilliant 1946 film-noir classic, featuring Lana Turner and John Garfield.

A married woman and a drifter fall in love and plot to murder her husband. But even once the deed is done, they must live with the consequences of their actions.

Arrive early, as space is limited. The movie is just over two hours long, and is screened in English with Chinese subtitles.

- Pop-Up Beijing, Office 22, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
- 🕒 7:30-9:30 pm, February 16

SPORTS



Multicultural Volleyball Group

Come join an international mix of women and men for multicultural volleyball every Saturday from 2-4 pm. Games are held at an indoor hall in the Sports School by the Beihai Park subway station.

Participants should have basic volleyball skills and be able to control the ball. Warm-up training will reactivate your hidden skills if you haven't played for a long time. Court rental is 560 yuan for two hours, meaning players will be expected to contribute 45-55 yuan.

- Shichahai Sports School, 57 Dianmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng
- 🕒 2-4 pm, multiple dates

FOODS

Photos by nicipic



Holiday Season Foods

BY WANG YAN

According to the Gregorian calendar, the first month of 2016 has already passed. However, the 2016 of the Chinese Lunar Year won't arrive until February 8.

Spring Festival, also known as Chinese Lunar New Year, is an important Chinese festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunar calendar. The festival runs from the evening preceding the first day of the Chinese New Year to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month.

Different areas of China have different customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the festival. However, the tradition of getting together with families to have the annual reunion dinner is seen almost everywhere.

Beijing Today has picked out several popular dishes commonly seen on Chinese tables during the New Year holiday.

Dumplings

The history of Chinese dumplings can be traced back to the Northern and Southern dynasties (420-589). By the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, dumplings had become a popular and essential holiday food.

According to folk legend, there are two reasons for eating dumplings: the shape of most dumplings resembles a Chinese tael, which symbolizes hope for wealth in the

coming year year. The stuffing also offers a compartment to store auspicious materials such as candy or coins.

In modern times, dumplings are the primary food on the New Year's Eve and the first meal on the first and the fifth day of the New Year.

Fish

It is very common to see a fish dish at a Chinese New Year reunion dinner.

The eating of fish has many meanings. In Mandarin dialects, fish is pronounced as "yu," which is a homonym with the word for abundance. A common well wishing is 'Niannian you yu,' which means 'May you have surpluses and bountiful harvests every year.'

In southern China, some people just eat the middle part of the fish on the New Year Eve, leaving the head and tail to the next day to symbolize completeness.

Rice Dumplings (Yuanxiao)

Chinese people started to eat Yuanxiao on Lantern Day during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). The round shape of the yuanxiao is a symbol of family reunion.

Northern China and southern China have different eating habits and ways of making yuanxiao. In southern China, rice dumplings are called Tangyuan. A dough of glutinous rice powder is stuffed with bean paste, brown sugar, fruits and nuts.

In the north of the country, rice dumplings are called Yuanxiao and are made by wrapping glutinous rice flour around the stuffing. The fillings are shaped and coated by rolling the balls in a bamboo basket full of rice flour. ■

Ditan Temple Fair

BY WANG YAN

Temple fairs are popular Spring Festival activities across China. Traditionally the fairs were for worshipping, but today they are more of a business activity.

Located on Andingmen Outer Avenue, Ditan Temple is one of the most well-known temple fairs. Ditan Park encloses the Altar of the Earth. Originally called the Fangze Altar, it was built in 1530 during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and used by emperors during ceremonies to worship the God of the Earth.

It is the country's last remaining altar for worshipping the God of the Earth.

From 1531 to 1911, 14 emperors used it as a place of sacrifice. At that time, worshipping the gods of Heaven and Earth was considered an essential religious activity with roots in prehistoric agricultural production.

In 1985, the first modern temple fair was held at Ditan Park. Since then, the park has been hosting the annual fair. The temple offers a variety of Chinese foods from northwestern China's chuan'r to southern China's dim sun. Visitors can also see traditional performances like lion dances, *xiangsheng* comedy and Peking opera.

A re-enactment of the ceremony to worship the Earth God is held at 10 am every day during the holiday. ■



CFP Photos

Ditan Temple Fair

➤ Take Subway Line 2 Yonghegong Lama Temple Station, and follow Exit A. The temple is across the street on the north.

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Braised Prawns

BY WANG YAN

Spring Festival is when Chinese families come together to reunite and share delicious food. Prawns were pricy commodities in ancient times, and were considered a luxurious food reserved for the holidays. Today, prawns are more affordable, and people can have them at any time. But many families continue the tradition of having prawns during their holiday feast.

Photo by housefocus.com



Ingredients:

- ☐ 500g prawns
- ☐ ginger, thinly sliced
- ☐ scallions, thinly sliced
- ☐ garlic
- ☐ Chinese cooking wine
- ☐ sugar
- ☐ white vinegar
- ☐ salt

The Steps:

1. Clean the prawns. Add Chinese cooking wine to a bowl and mix in the prawns. Allow them to marinate for 10 minutes.
2. Mix the white vinegar, sugar and salt into a bowl and set it aside to use as the sauce.
3. Heat up a wok and add the prawns. Add the ginger when one side of the prawns turns orange. Add the scallions and then the sauce bowl.
4. Cover with a lid, and braise for 2-3 minutes before serving.